

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 10817 191134Z

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 /020 W

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R 190952Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHC 6306

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DEPT PASS OPIC FOR SVENSK

EO 11652/N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IV

SUB: FOLLOW-UP ON OPIC VISIT

RE: A. SATE 254690: B. AMBASSADOR SMITH

LETTER TO EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

DAVID GREGG III DTD DEC 4

1. AS REPORTED IN REF B, IVOIRE-OUTILS HAS BEEN ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING WITH A BRITISH FIRM. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF OPIC WOULD LET US KNOW IF IVOIRE-OUTILS HAS GIVEN OPIC ANY INDICATION OF INTERES IN JOINT VENTURE WIH US FIRM, BECAUSE LOCAL FIRM HAS GIVEN EMBASSY NONE.

2. AVOCADO PRODUCTION IS STEADY, BUT THERE ARE QUALITY STANDARDS PROBLEMS TO BE WORKED OU. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, AN AVADADO PROCESSING PROJECT IS AT LEAST TWO YEARS HENCE.

3. AUDEBERT HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT, DUE TO THE DROUGHT, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED DROP IN ANIMAL KILLS IN ABIDJAN ABATTOIR. IN 1972, 55,000 HEAD WERE SLAUGHTERED: IN 1973, 52,312: IN 1974, 47,110. AUDEBERT INFORMS US THAT HE DOES NOT EXPECT 1975 FIGURE TO BE MUCH HIGHER THAN 1974. DESPITE INCREASED DEMAND FOR MEAT, HERDSMEN IN THE NORTH ARE REBUILDING THEIR HEARDS RATHER THAN SELLING CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER. IVORY COAST CATTLE INDUSTRY IS SMALL, WITHONLY A FEW PROJECTS ON STREAM. BUT MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEM FOR ANY PROSPECTIVE

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TANNER IS QUALITY OF HIDES. QUALITY IS VERYPOOR AND LIKELY TO

REMAIN SO. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE
IN VIABILITY OF THIS PROJECT IN FORESESSABLE FUTURE.

4. EMBASSY IS PURSUING GOODRICH INTEREST AS SET FORTH IN
REF B AND WE INFORMED OPIC ABOUT GENERAL TIRE IN REF B AS
WELL. MOST VIABLE PORJECT AT THE MOMENT IS JOINT VENTURE
BETWEEN ALEXANDER AND BALDWIN AND COMPANY AND IVORIAN
ENTREPRENEUR ETIENNE TAPE. TEAM FROM A AND B DID COME
TO IVORY COAST, LED BY VVICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF AGRONOMIST,
KOBE SHOJI, PH. \$, HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WITH TAPE, VISITED
SITE, WERE IMPRESSED WITH BOTH THE MAN AND HIS PLANS, AND
LEFT THE COUNTRY DEFINITELY INTERESTED.
SMITH

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